

Statement of Cheryl Casey  
Appropriations Committee  
February 23, 2017

Senators and Representatives:

My name is Cheryl Casey. I live in an apartment in Bethel. Last year, I was served with a letter by my landlord which accused me of many actions I never took, and threatened to evict me. I am a law abiding citizen- I was shocked that I could be targeted in such a way. I eventually learned that the accusations in the letter were based on numerous false statements made by another resident for the purpose of harassing me and making my life difficult. She had bullied and discriminated against me many times before and this was just another example.

I understand that the management company had to investigate it. Even though I knew the complaints were not true, it seemed to me that I was in big trouble. I was being threatened with eviction! My lease was in jeopardy so someone suggested that maybe CLRP would help. Since I am a disabled senior with little income and no family, I was accepted as a qualifying client. The letter that I initially received from the management company was in March of 2016. The matter was not resolved until yesterday, almost a year later.

Without the help of the attorney and also her assistant at CLRP, I would not likely have been capable of defending myself or staying in my apartment. I had no idea about all of the ins and outs and how long the process would take. Without CLRP, I would probably be homeless today. My attorney helped to prove that the allegations made were a malicious intent by a few bad apples living in the complex. My attorney came by yesterday with a letter from the management company which exonerated me of any wrongdoing. The eviction threat is gone, and the bullies were reprimanded and even asked to resign from their positions in the resident association group. The property manager even included a no-bullying policy in all new leases as a result of my situation.

It has been an extremely difficult time which caused a lot of anxiety and aggravation, not to mention more health problems. So much had to be investigated to prove that I have always complied with the lease. There was a large amount of work involved to prove my innocence.

I am so very grateful to my attorney and her assistant for their diligence and professionalism at CLRP. Please know that they are competent and sincere about what they do. So many people who cannot afford an attorney are in need of representation. Without CLRP there would be more people without housing, living on the streets, ready to give up and desperate. PLEASE KEEP CLRP AS A NECESSARY AND IMPORTANT LEGAL STRUCTURE in our state.